



THE CRISIS IN PARIS.

THE TRIBUNE was long the only newspaper in the United States receiving special dispatches from the seat of war, or represented by Special Correspondents with either Prussian or French armies, and at the leading capital. THE TRIBUNE dispatches have been used, in an important form, by the New-York Herald, World, Times, and Sun. They were thus used yesterday by the New-York Herald.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

OVERTHROW OF THE EMPIRE.
A BLOODLESS REVOLUTION—APPEARANCE OF THE CROWDS—THE NATIONAL GUARD FRATERNIZING WITH THE PEOPLE—AN INTERVIEW WITH GEN. TROCHU—HOW THE TULLERIES WERE SAVED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
LONDON, Monday, Sept. 5, 1870.
The special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Paris telegraphs as follows: The Rue Dix Décembre has been rebaptized Rue Quatre Septembre, and the Avenue de l'Empereur is now Rue Victor Noir. I have witnessed a peaceful revolution in Paris, with as great results as the bloodiest that this city of revolutions was ever the theater of. I propose to describe strictly what I saw—and I had the luck to see a great deal.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE CROWDS.
Knowing that the Corps Législatif was to hold an extraordinary sitting at 1 o'clock, I got into a carriage at 2, and told the driver to go to the Champs Elysées, hang about the Place de la Concorde, and get over one of the bridges to the Faubourg St. Germain. He objected that there were great crowds in the route I had carved out for him, and doubted whether he would get along. "Try," said I, and so he did: and we succeeded. On the Place de la Concorde there were many groups of people and several companies of National Guards; but still carriages could circulate. I observed that the National Guards carried laurels on their bayonets, and that numbers of citizens had sprigs of green, meant to represent laurels, in their hats. The laurels could not win victory over the foreign enemy; but they were worn as emblems of victory over the internal enemy, the Emperor.

My attention was attracted to one of the colossal allegorical statues at the north-east corner of the Place, representing the city of Strasbourg. This statue was decked out with flowers, and an enormous placard was hung around the neck bearing the words, "Honor and glory to Gen. Urich." A succession of democratic orators mounted the parapet at the feet of the statue, and harangued a vast crowd with great success. I could not get near enough to hear the eloquence, but it was about the Republic and the certain victory which the Republic could bring.

I then turned my carriage and went toward the Place de la Concorde. The approaches were occupied by troops, and it was impossible to cross; but I observed the steps of the Corps Législatif buildings on the other side of the river covered with people, and saw that the quays right and left were closely studded with infantry, cavalry, National Guards, and people, all mixed up together. At this moment I drove slowly along the quay, parallel with the Orangerie of the Tuilleries, toward the Palace. The Tuilleries gardens were full of people, and I learned that in the morning orders had been given to close the gates, but that half an hour before I had passed the people had forced them open, and that neither the troops nor the police had made any resistance. My coachman, who, I dare say, was an Imperialist yesterday, but was a very strong Republican to-day, pointed out to me several groups of people bearing red flags. I told him that the Tri-color, betokening the existence of the Empire, still floated from the central tower of the Tuilleries.

THE TRI-COLOR FLAG HAULED DOWN.
While I was speaking, and exactly at 3:30, I saw that flag taken down. Crossing on the Pont de Solferino to the Quay d'Orsay, I witnessed an extraordinary sight from the windows of those great barracks, formerly peopled with troops, every man of whom was supposed to be ready to die for his Emperor. I saw soldiers smiling, waving handkerchiefs, and responding to the cries of "Vive la République" raised by *gens d'armes* cavalry, soldiers of the line, National Guards, and people. Below, well-dressed ladies in open carriages shook hands with private soldiers and men in blouses, all crying "Vive la République." Nay, strangers fell on each other's necks, and kissed each other with effusion.

In the neighborhood of the Pont-Neuf, I saw people on the tops of ladders busily pulling down the Emperor's busts, which the late loyalty of the people induced them to stick about in all possible and impossible places. I saw the busts carried in mock procession to the parapet of the Pont-Neuf, and thrown into the Seine; clapping of hands and hearty laughter greeting the splash which the graven image of the mighty monarch made in the water. I went as far as the Hotel de Ville, and found it in possession of His Majesty the Sovereign People; blouses were in every one of M. Haussmann's balconies. How they got there, I do not know; I presume that M. Chevreau did not invite them, but they got in somehow without violence.

THE NATIONAL GUARD FRATERNIZES.
The great square in front of the Hotel de Ville was full of the National Guards, most of them without uniform. They carried the butts of their muskets in the air in token that they were fraternizing with the people.

The most perfect good order prevailed. Portraits of the Emperor and Empress (which many of the young leaders must have seen in the Hotel de Ville ball-rooms) were thrown out of the windows, and the people trod and danced upon the canvases. At the hotel placards announced that Count De Kératry was Prefect of Police and M. Arago Mayor of Paris. On leaving the Hotel de Ville, I saw in the Avenue Victoria M. Henri Rochefort let out of prison as a logical consequence of events. But half an hour elapsed before he was on a triumphal car, and wore a scarlet scarf. He was escorted by an immense mob crying, "Vive Rochefort," and looked in far better health than I expected to see him after his long imprisonment. His countenance beamed with delight, for he has seen his desire on his enemy.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TROCHU.
Another special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Paris, on the same date, says the news of the Emperor's capture reached the Foreign Embassies here at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Count Palikao concealed it in his communication to the Chamber; and as an instance of the disorganization that reigns in all quarters, I may add that Gen. Trochu was not aware of it at 6 o'clock in the evening. But in the evening at about 8 o'clock it began to be rumored that the Emperor and MacMahon's army had surrendered. I saw a crowd of about 2,000 men going down the Boulevard and shouting *La Déchéance*. I took the arm of a patriot and we all went together to the Louvre to interview Gen. Trochu. He came after we had shouted for him for about half an hour, and a deputation had called upon him. There was a dead silence as soon as he appeared, so that what he said could be distinctly heard. He told us that the news of the capture of the Emperor was true, and that as for arms, he could not give more than he had, and he regretted to say the millions on paper were not forthcoming.

Linked to the arm of my patriot, I then went with the crowd to look up the Deputies of the Left, but none of them were at home. The patriot said that he had heard that there was to be a night sitting of the Corps Législatif, so after refreshing at a café, he and I, with two other gentlemen in blouses, went off to the Place de la Concorde. We crossed the bridge, and joined a crowd standing before the Palais Du Corps Législatif. A few minutes afterward we were forced back across the river by a squadron of Gardes de Paris; in the crowd I lost two of my friends, and found myself alone with one of the blouses. He told me that he was a Republican, and that he meant to fight the next day against the Empire and then against the Prussians. We sat talking on the parapet of the quay until about 1:30, when the Gardes de Paris fell back, and I not only got across the river, but into a gallery of the Chamber.

THE NEWS IN THE CORPS LEGISLATIF.
There were hardly any Deputies present, but gradually they came in and took their seats. M. Schneider, the President, appeared and explained that, at the request of several Deputies, he had called them together. Then Gen. Palikao ascended the tribune, and in the midst of a solemn silence made the statement which you, by the time you receive this, will know. Jules Favre followed him to the tribune, and proposed to declare the *Déchéance*. Again silence, and at last Gen. Palikao, and after him the President, suggested that it would be well to adjourn until the next morning, and the Deputies slowly left.

Anything at once so quiet and so lugubrious, I never witnessed; when blouse and I went out the crowd outside had entirely disappeared, and so shaking hands we parted, and I went through the silent streets home. This morning when Paris awoke it found the walls placarded with the address of the Minister, which no doubt is already known to you. At 11 o'clock I went to the Place de la Concorde; it was full of people, and from all the streets leading to it armed bands of National Guards were marching. A double line of mounted Gardes de Paris was drawn up before the bridge; behind them I got the first band of National Guards which tried to pass the bridge, but were forbidden to do so by the officer commanding the Gardes de Paris. He ordered his soldiers to draw their swords. The National Guards and their side about *en avant*. I began to feel somewhat uncomfortable, but after a short pause, the soldiers sheathed their swords, and the National Guards passed over the bridge shouting *Vive la République*. This band was followed by many others, until I suppose about 20,000 National Guards had passed over the bridge and stood around the assembly, the flag of which was now flying to show that the scene had commenced.

THE EXCITEMENT CULMINATES.
By this time there must have been 100,000 men and women in the Place de la Concorde. This crowd was composed of workmen, bourgeois, women, children, and soldiers; every now and then there was a panic and a rush, but as every one seemed to be of one mind there was no danger of blood being shed. The following expression I heard about a hundred times, and it summed up the feelings of the Parisians: "An Emperor dies, but does not surrender." On all sides I heard abuse lavished on the Emperor, and every now and then some wiry workman got upon the shoulders of a friend, and shouted: "Vive la République!" "A bas l'Empire!"

When the cry was repeated by all around outside the gate of the gardens of the Tuilleries, which were closed, I thought they were going to force open the gate and attack the few soldiers who were on guard within.

THE CAN CAN SAVES THE TULLERIES.
Indeed, the garden was only saved by a Zouave inside, who knew his countrymen, dancing the *can can*. After remaining about two hours on the Place de la Concorde, I went to the Boulevards. They were occupied by a pacific crowd waiting for news; suddenly a cry was raised, "*La République est déclarée!*" A regiment, the only one I had seen that day, was marching down at that minute. They were met by a detachment of the National Guard coming from the Chamber. Guard, regiment, and people immediately fraternized. The soldiers reversed their arms: the Marseil-

aise was sung, and the soldiers disappeared into the neighboring cafés, where they were treated to drink. From the aspect of Paris one could suppose that news of a great victory had been received. Such perfect unanimity I never witnessed. As it is Sunday, the men are walking about with their wives and children in holiday dress. The National Guards are marching home along the Boulevards as though they had come from a review. The windows and sidewalks are lined with people cheering them. It is felt by all that the surrender of the Chief of the State must be repudiated by the nation, that it had been repudiated, and that the dishonor falls consequently on the man and not on France.

EUGENIE THINKS NAPOLEON A COWARD.
I hear that last night the general opinion among politicians was that if Prussia will grant fair terms of peace they ought not to be rejected. The difficulty is, however, to find a statesman who will incur the odium of urging a peace. It has been suggested that an anonymous ministry of nobodies should be formed who would make a treaty and then disappear. I was told this morning by a gentleman attached to the Court that the Empress is indignant with the Emperor. She says that he is a coward and never should have been taken alive. My friend tells me that as far as is yet known at the Tuilleries he behaved with an absolute want of dignity; that he recommended Gen. Wimpffen to surrender, and that he himself appeared to be so afraid of his own troops avenging their disasters on him, that he seemed to have but one thought—to get safe away within the Prussian lines.

PLANS FOR PROCURING PEACE.
Now is the moment for England to earn the eternal gratitude of France by bringing all her moral influence to bear in order to induce the Prussians to make peace on terms which a gallant, high-spirited nation can accept. I do hope that Lord Granville will, without consulting the formalists of the Foreign Office, at once use every effort to bring the war to an end and to obtain for France reasonable terms.

There have been a few fights between the police and the Gardes Mobiles, who have miraculously reappeared, and who regard *sergents de ville* as their natural enemies. One of the gates of the Tuilleries Garden was forced since I left the Place de la Concorde. A few Imperial employes who were foolish enough to appear in gorgeous uniforms, have been pelted, but the whole revolution has been accomplished with far less tumult or disturbance than an election in many free and enlightened constituencies at home. Paris, so sad and melancholy of late, is in a wild ecstasy of joy. These wonderful Parisians are like school-boys who have just barred out their master, and not one in a thousand remembers that a Prussian army is advancing on them.

DRILLING THE HOME GUARD.
I went out yesterday to see the *Garde Nationale Séduite* go through their exercises. It is composed of the married men who, on one plea or another, have escaped the conscription, and the *Garde Noble*, among the middle classes. Some of them had full uniforms, but most of them had only either a military cap or a red stripe down their trousers. They drill in squads in all the open places morning and evening. When the drill is over, they stack their arms, which are carried away. Each man appeared to me to be brimming over with good intentions, but to have some private theory of his own as to how arms are to be handled. The squads I saw are in every sense of the word awkward squads. Citizens cannot be converted into soldiers in a day, and France is now paying the penalty of that distrust on the part of her ruler, who has for so many years forbidden the use of arms to his subjects. M. Guizot once aptly described his countrymen as a race of administrators and administrators. So long as an organized force can hold the field France will be able to resist but once let the organized forces of the country be completely vanquished there is not the slightest chance of what is called the nation rising as one man. The walls of Paris will be the last ditch. M. Haussmann, in his report to the Senate, puts down the number of regular troops at 700,000, and to this he adds 170,000 recruits of the conscription of 1870; allowing for losses in the field, I should be glad to know where except on paper these warriors are. A story is current in Paris which would account for the difference between the paper and the effective force of the army, and which to a certain extent explains why the Emperor rushed into war, although he knew that he was unprepared for it.

WHY THE ARMY WAS DEFICIENT.
Of late years his civil list has not been large enough to provide for the lavish expense of his court, his largesse to his adherents, and the secret service money which was required to keep up the love of Imperialism among his subjects. About £2,000,000 sterling were therefore yearly taken from the Ministry of War and handed over to him; the largesse was concealed by stores figuring on the accounts which never had been bought, and "looting" the money which was paid into the Military Treasury by those who were drawn for the conscription to enable the Government to buy substitutes. Regiments nominally 2,000 strong only had an effective force of 1,500. The money for the substitute and the supposed yearly cost of a substitute were appropriated to the civil list.

When the Emperor was obliged, a few months ago, to yield to the cry for Parliamentary government, he knew that the next Legislative Assembly would contain so many Constitutionalists that even if there were still an Imperial majority the scandalous fraud would be brought to light. His only chance, therefore, was to wage war. A successful campaign gained might put off Parliamentary government, or if that were impossible, the falling off in men and stores might be ascribed to the war. Marshal Leboeuf and the personal adherents of the Emperor were in the secret, but they were all tarred with the same brush, and they felt that they must sink or swim with their master, and that for themselves, as well as for him, the only chance of impunity was in a victory. But when the chief robes, the subordinate will rob too. The Emperor and his Minister of War found they could not well count on the men and stores which they imagined they possessed. Food and ammunition were found to be wanting for a movement across the frontier; hence the delay

to attack, and the subsequent disasters. I give the story as I have heard it from persons in a position to know what has passed behind the curtain. What confirms it to my mind is that almost all the personal adherents of the Emperor who have occupied official positions had not private fortunes before the Empire, notoriously spent double their salaries and are now the owners of houses, estates, and other equally solid investments.

The *Figaro* proposes a national subscription to reward the man who murders the general commanding the troops around Strasbourg. What an opinion the world will have of France if they judge of her by her organs of public opinion? It cannot be too often repeated that the newspapers here neither lead nor represent public opinion. The French are not so bad as their journalists would make them out, they are neither bullies, braggarts, nor assassins.

PROGRESS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
MINISTERIAL PROCLAMATION TO THE ARMY—ADDRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKINGMEN'S SOCIETY TO THE DEMOCRATS OF GERMANY—A REQUEST FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GERMAN ARMIES—PROCLAMATIONS FROM THE NEW MAYOR AND PREFECT OF POLICE OF PARIS.

PARIS, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1870.
The *Journal Officiel* publishes the following proclamation this morning:

To the Army: When a General compromises his command, he is relieved; when a Government puts in peril, by its own weakness, the public safety, it is set aside. This is just what France is doing in abolishing the dynasty, responsible for all our misfortunes. She has done boldly, in the face of all the world, this great act of justice. She executes the decree under which all your conscripts have been summoned, and in the same act secures the public safety. To save itself, the Nation needs now but to rise en masse, and henceforth to count on two things only: Its own resolution, which is invincible, and your heroism, which has never had an equal, and which, in the midst of unmerited reverses, has astonished the world. Rally round the glorious symbol which 80 years ago drove back all Europe before us. To-day, as at that time, the name of the Republic signifies the intimate union of the army and the people for the defense of the country.

[Signed by the Ministers.]
The International Workingmen's Society, in their address to the Social Democracy of Germany, says:

"Prussia made war against the Emperor, not France, who now asks the withdrawal of your armies; otherwise it will be the universal duty of Frenchmen to rise and reëxact the scenes of '93. Frenchmen make no peace with the enemy on their soil; but they are the friends and allies of all free peoples. We protest against the intervention of the Powers, and implore the Prussian forces to recross the Rhine. Let us, with grasped hands, forget crimes prompted or perpetrated by despots. Let us form the United States of Europe. Live the Universal Republic!"

The Mayor has issued the following proclamation:

"HOTEL DE VILLE, PARIS, Sept. 6.—Citizens: I have been called by the people and Government of the National Defense to the Mayorship of Paris. While waiting for you to be called to elect your municipality, I take possession of this City Hall in the name of the Republic, which was the scene of the patriotic events of 1794, 1830, and 1848. I speak to you now as our fathers did in 1792. Citizens: The country is in danger; rally around this Parisian municipality, defended to-day from siege by a soldier of the Republic. *Vive la République!*"

ETIENNE ARAGO."

The Prefect of the Police has issued the following proclamation:

Policemen and inhabitants of Paris: After being for 18 years crushed under cruel blows, the traditions interrupted on the 18th, *Brumaire*, and the 2d of December, are at last resumed. The Deputies of the Left, after the withdrawal of their colleagues, have by a majority proclaimed the decree of *déchéance*. Soon afterward the Republic was proclaimed from the Hotel de Ville. The revolution which has just taken place has been a pacific one. It was understood that no French blood should flow except on the field of battle. It has for its object, as in 1792, the repression of the foreign foe. It behooves, therefore, the inhabitants of Paris, by their self-possession, and the manliness of their attitude, to continue to show themselves equal to the task that they and the nation have undertaken. For this reason, invested by the Government with the powers that have been so much abused under previous régimes, I invite the inhabitants of Paris to the exercise of those political rights which they have just reconquered, to the fullest extent possible consistent with wisdom and moderation, and to show France and the world that we are indeed worthy of liberty. Our duty in the circumstances in which we have been placed is, above all, to remember that the country is in danger, and that France, under the auspices of Republican liberty, prepares to vanquish or die. I am certain that my powers will only be used to defend you from the blows of those who seek to betray the country.

KERATRY.

The new Government has revoked the functions of the following Embassadors to foreign courts: The Marquis de Lavelette at London, Count de Manbourg at Vienna, and Gen. Fleury at St. Petersburg. As the Corps Diplomatique has not received the circular usual under the circumstances, relations between France and other Powers are for the moment suspended. Nothing has been heard yet from the Cabinet of London, which is understood to purpose mediation.

M. Gambetta, the Secretary of the Interior, has given orders to closely watch the Count of Nieuwerkerke, the former Superintendent of the Museum of the Louvre, until are produced all the missing paintings which have been from time to time stolen under his administration. Orders have been given for the arrest of M. Pietri, lately Prefect of the Police, who is suspected of a determination to oppose the authorities. Seals have been placed on the cabinet of Marshal Vaillant. The Minis-

ter of the Imperial Household. The Marshal and his Secretary left last night.

SPREAD OF THE REVOLUTION—THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS ABOLISHED—CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE SPANISH CORTES—ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF THE POLITICAL REFUGEES—RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS—GERMANS ORDERED TO LEAVE PARIS.

PARIS, Tuesday, Sept. 6.—Evening.
From all parts of France news is coming in of the enthusiastic adhesion to the Republic. The people are arming and volunteers are hastening to Paris where a large force has already assembled.

At Marseilles the Departmental Committee was installed yesterday in the Prefecture, and distributed to the people thousands of guns found there. The workmen arrested several secret agents of the police. All the *sergents de ville* have disappeared. The Prefect of the Department with his family left the city on Sunday night. Deputy Esquiros is to make a solemn entry to-day.

Deputy Castelar, in the name of the Republican minority in the Spanish Cortes, has sent to the Republican Government of France a dispatch saying: "The Spanish minority salute in you the advent of Right and the inauguration of a new era of Liberty. Rest assured that the Republic will cause the cessation of the rivalries monarchs have created in Europe. All the Continent will form one people—all nations one family." The address is signed by 20 Deputies of the Cortes.

The Division of the Press at the Ministry of the Interior has been abolished. This puts an end to the censorship of the press. No more foreign journals will be stopped at the frontier, and the freedom of the press at home will be absolute.

Victor Hugo, who has arrived here with his sons, receives enthusiastic receptions wherever he appears. He made a short address last night, exhorting the people to keep calm, and offer a determined resistance to the enemy.

Touching scenes occurred at the Mazas Prison when the political prisoners were released. It is reported that Ledru Rollin and the Prince de Joinville and Duc d'Aumale have entered France.

The Prefect of Police, by the direction of the Governor of Paris, orders all Germans not provided with special permission, to quit the Departments of the Seine and the Seine-et-Oise within 24 hours, beginning at 8 a. m. to-day, under the penalty of being sent before a military tribunal.

Decrees absolving citizens from their oaths to the Empire, and abolishing stamps on journals, have been issued. All the Mayors of Paris have been appointed and installed in office. A large number of Prefects of Departments have also been appointed.

A Council of the Government was held at the Palace of the Louvre to-day; Gen. Trochu presided. Efforts were made by some men last night to induce the people in the faubourgs to shout *Vive la République Démocratique et sociale!* but it failed. The people would only hurrah for the Republic.

HASTY FLIGHT OF THE EMPRESS.

ALL HER FAVORITES DESERT HER—HER ABDICATION NOT SIGNED—PRINCESS CLOTILDE THE LAST TO LEAVE PARIS.

PARIS, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1870.
The Empress left Paris on Sunday afternoon, going to Belgium to rejoin the Prince Imperial. She quitted the palace by the entrance on the quay, having with her but one servant. In the morning Ferdinand d'Lesseps, a relative of the Empress, went to her and advised that she sign her abdication. She seemed to agree to this, and taking the draft of the act went to the hall where the Ministers sat in council. They all declared she must not sign the paper.

Princess Clotilde, say the journals, was the last of the Imperial family to leave the palace. She has gone to Frangins, where her children are. It was evident from the appearance of the rooms in the palace that the departure of the Empress was hasty. Trunks were scattered about in various places, and articles of apparel were lying about in disorder. In the Emperor's room were a number of hats, on all sides empty cigar boxes, a great number of phials containing phosphate of iron, books, papers, a revolver case, and piles of journals. In the rooms of the Prince Imperial were his books and an unfinished historical exercise, written in a plain round hand, and on the floor his leaden soldiers were lying about.

It is stated that the officials remaining in charge of the palace, and all those whom the Empress had so favored, deserted her, and not one remained to see her off. Nothing inside the palace was injured. Some of the National Guard required the cooks to prepare them a meal, and they drank some of the wine in the Imperial cellars, but nothing else was touched, except that the N. on the railings about the palace was torn off or covered with rags and handkerchiefs.

THE TONE OF THE PARIS PRESS.

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS CONCERNING JULES FAVRE'S RESOLUTION—GENERAL APPEAL TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT—A PROTEST AGAINST THE REPUBLIC.

PARIS, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1870.
The *Gaulois* says the report that Jules Favre has gone to the headquarters of the King of Prussia seems to be confirmed by the fact that he did not appear yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some other journals, however, contradict the report.

Many of the Paris journals declare that there is no time now to discuss the form of Government; Frenchmen must accept the one established, and immediately prepare for a defense *a outrance*.

The *Constitutionnel* in its leading article to-day says: "We must, above all, be patriotic as we have never been before, such is the danger which threatens our country; and we give in our adhesion to the Government of National Defense." The same paper notices the report that Jules Favre had telegraphed to Washington announcing the declaration of the Republic, and expresses the hope that volunteers will come to the aid of France from the free American Republic.

The *Journal des Débats* counsels the new Government, while announcing the termination of the personal power, to bear in mind that the nation is, as much opposed to the personal power of eleven individuals as to that of one man. The *Journal* concludes by announcing that it will act with the Government.

L'Opinion Nationale advises that some of the Departments of the Government be removed to Bourges, which place is strongly fortified.

The crowds have made demonstrations against the *Figaro* (newspaper) and Ernest Droule, editor of *Le Public*, for publishing a protest against a Republic.

THE DEFENSE OF SEDAN.

A FRENCH ACCOUNT OF MACMAHON'S DISASTER.

THE BATTLES PREVIOUS TO THE SURRENDER—SPLENDID ARTILLERY SERVICE OF THE PRUSSIANS—BRAVERY OF THE EMPEROR UNDER FIRE—A DESPERATE SORTIE BY GEN. WIMPFFEN—GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRIBLE SCENES IN SEDAN.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1870.

The Special Correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at MacMahon's Headquarters, a French officer, who witnessed the battle of Sedan from the French side, and was shut up in Sedan with the French army, having been released, sends the following account, dated Sedan, Sept. 3.

THE EVENTS OF AUG. 31.
I pass over all that has happened since I wrote you from Mézières, to come at once to the events of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1—the latter the saddest day the French arms have ever witnessed.

Early in the morning of the 31st, orders were given to bring into Sedan all the wagons, trains and oxen which had been left outside the glacis. By this time the streets were blocked up by troops of every kind which had entered the town during the night. I tried to ride down to the Porte de Paris, where the train was stationed to carry the orders. I was obliged to get off my horse and make my way as best I could between the horses and caissons which choked up every street and square of the town. As I reached the Porte de Paris, I met the wagon train entering as fast as possible, followed closely by the rushing oxen and intermingled with the weeping and terror-stricken peasantry of the neighborhood flying into the town for protection. They little knew that it was about the worst place they could have chosen. The gates on that side were immediately afterward closed, while the troops slowly filed out through the opposite gate toward Douzy, where all MacMahon's forces were posted, expecting to be again attacked by the Prussians, who had closely followed up the French army.

POSITIONS OF THE CONTENTING FORCES.

About 10 o'clock that morning cannonading was heard six or seven miles away, toward the village of Bazelle. I went up on the rampart overlooking the country in that direction. Thence I could see the Prussian position, and with my field-glass could watch the firing; but I could not see the French lines, which were hid from me by trees about a mile from the town. I therefore, at noon, walked out of the town at the Porte de Balan and ascended on my left the rising ground which is close by the town. Not more than half a mile from the gate I passed through regiments of reserve infantry. Their arms were piled and the fires smoking, the soup not having long been eaten. I continued ascending, and everywhere passed reserve corps of infantry and artillery. I got higher and higher, from hillock to hillock, till I reached a battery of reserve, the guns of which were unlimbered and placed facing the rear of the French left. This battery was so pointed as to fire over the crest of the rising ground on which I stood. About a quarter of a mile distant, in front of a little churchyard, stood also several officers of the different corps which were stationed on my right and left, all being of the reserve.

From the point I had now reached, a charming prospect was within view. The French line of battle extended right in front, spreading on the slope of the ground which forms one side of this basin of the Meuse. In front of the center of the French lines, and lower down in the vale, was the village of Bazelle, which was then beginning to burn, the Prussian shells having set fire to it. Parallel almost to the front of the French positions ran the Meuse, crossed by a bridge a little to the left of Bazelle. The French right was upon a knot of wooded ground held by *tirailleurs*, the wooded ground extending nearly to the grounds of Sedan. The left was lost to my sight behind the inequalities of the ground toward the road to Bouillon. As far as I could see, on the right and left and in front of me, were massed regiments of all arms; but toward the left, on the second line, was a very large force of heavy cavalry—dragoons and cuirassiers.

The sun was shining brightly, and everything was plainly visible. The glittering of weapons, the bright and showy colors of the French uniforms, the white smoke curling under the blue sky or hanging like vapor beneath the trees, the lurid flames rising from the burning village of Bazelle, all seen from a commanding position, formed a spectacle such as one has but rarely the opportunity to witness. The principal Prussian batteries were directly opposite the French center on a plateau or table-land which terminated abruptly, and made it a very strong position.

For some time cannonading continued on both sides. At 2 o'clock a force of

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across the bridge in the village of Douzy, and immediately there began a very sharp fusillade, lasting however not more than ten minutes. I think the French must have lost ground in that encounter, although I could not see it, because of some trees that intervened; but a battery of six mitrailleurs advanced and opened fire through the trees. Several bullets came all at once. The Prussians fell hurriedly back, leaving whole ranks behind, which had gone down like those leaden soldiers which children play with.

At about 4:30 the firing had ceased everywhere. The village, which had been blazing all day, was still smoking. The French remained in the same position. Though the day had apparently been without result, the de-